

News Release

Mid-Pacific Region
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RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

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Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region Releases a New Concession Prospectus for Lake Berryessa, Napa, California

The Bureau of Reclamation has released a new Concession Prospectus and is accepting proposals for the future operations at Lake Berryessa.

The Prospectus outlines business opportunities for six concession areas at Lake Berryessa to be provided by private individuals or companies in compliance with Reclamation's June 2, 2006 Record of Decision (ROD) for the Future Recreation Use and Operations of Lake Berryessa. The ROD culminated a long-term visitor services planning (VSP) process that began in June 2000. Because of the significant changes mandated by the ROD, the new concession operations at Lake Berryessa will be based upon facilities and services that better promote diverse, short-term recreation opportunities year around for the enjoyment of the visiting public. The Prospectus places a premium on creativity by the bidders in developing and submitting proposals that optimize this objective.

In March 2009, Reclamation determined that the original contract solicitation released in June 2007 did not fully conform to legal requirements governing reimbursement for capital improvements. On that basis, the negotiations for new contracts were cancelled. New long-term contracts are expected to be awarded prior to the 2010 recreation season.

Lake Berryessa and the area surrounding it are physically attractive and provide scenic vistas to users both on the shore and from the lake. Given the often-superior natural beauty and lake vistas in combination with new and improved facilities, Lake Berryessa should draw hundreds of thousands of new visitors and compete very successfully with areas such as New Melones, Don Pedro, the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta, Shasta Lake, Trinity Lake, Lake Oroville, and others that are currently financially successful and draw heavily from populations much nearer and more convenient to Lake Berryessa. Proximity to Napa Valley attractions also provides a potential nexus that will eventually benefit new business models at Lake Berryessa.

The Prospectus as well as detailed information and supporting/background documentation are available online at www.usbr.gov/mp/berryessa/prospectus.html. Proposals are due by 2 p.m. on August 14, 2009. For further information, please contact Mr. Drew Lessard, Acting Chief, Recreation Resource Division, Central California Area Office, at e-mail lbprospectus@mp.usbr.gov or 916-989-7180.

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